

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore: PLANTS

Many of the plants found within the Lakeshore have special adaptations that allow them to survive the harsh environment of the dunes. Use the links provided to help you answer the following questions and learn about the unique plants of Sleeping Bear Dunes.

Link: <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/naturescience/plants.htm>

1. Complete this sentence as it appears on the website: “*The story of the plants in the park is a story of ...*”

2. The Manitou Islands have very different types of vegetation. Why?

Link: <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/naturescience/ferns.htm>

3. How many species of “true ferns” can be found within the Lakeshore?

Link: <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/naturescience/freshwaterplants.htm>

4. Invasive plants can sometimes outcompete and replace native plants. How many species of invasive plants are mentioned on this page?

Link: <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/naturescience/grasses.htm>

5. Sometimes non-native species become important parts of an ecosystem. How have introduced grasses become important within the Lakeshore?

Link: <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/naturescience/lichens.htm>

6. Lichens are actually two organisms (fungus and algae) living in a *symbiotic* relationship. Studying the variety and health of lichens within the Lakeshore can give scientists an indication of what?

Link: <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/naturescience/treesandshrubs.htm>

7. What characteristics of the Lakeshore have helped the beech/maple northern hardwood forest reach its climax?

8. The foredune area provides some of Michigan's best habitat for which threatened species?

Link: <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/naturescience/wildflowers.htm>

9. Name the season or month during which each of the following flowers may be found within the Lakeshore:

yellow puccoon: _____ witch hazel: _____

Link: <http://friendsofsleepingbear.org/wildflower-database/>

10. This site lists over 150 wildflowers that can be found within the Lakeshore. Name the only two that have *green* blossoms.

11. OPINION: Based on what you've learned in this activity, write a brief paragraph describing how PLANTS are protected and preserved by Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.
